

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin for placement in a crotch portion of an undergarment of a wearer, said sanitary napkin comprising:
 - a main body with a longitudinal axis[[,] ;
 - a first longitudinal side area and an opposite longitudinal side area, said first longitudinal side area and said opposite side area being located on opposite sides of said longitudinal axis[[s]]; [[and]]
 - a central region intermediate said ~~two opposite side areas~~, first longitudinal side area and said opposite longitudinal side area; and
 - a preferential bending zone extending from [[one]] said first longitudinal side area to ~~an~~ said opposite longitudinal side area, said preferential bending zone having a first end located in said first longitudinal side area and a second end located in said opposite longitudinal side area, said preferential bending zone including a segment crossing the longitudinal axis of the sanitary napkin, said segment crossing the longitudinal axis obliquely in relation to said longitudinal axis.
2. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 1, wherein said sanitary napkin having a thickness not exceeding about 5 mm.
3. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 1 comprising a plurality of preferential bending zones spaced apart from one another.
4. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 3, wherein said preferential bending zones intersect each other.

5. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 3, wherein said preferential bending zones are operative to create resistance to lateral compression when said sanitary napkin is in use.

6. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein said preferential bending zone is arcuate.

7. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein said main body includes a fluid permeable cover layer, an absorbent system and a liquid impervious barrier layer.

8. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 7, wherein said preferential bending zone is an embossing on said absorbent system.

9. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 7, wherein said preferential bending zone is an embossing of said fluid permeable cover layer and on said absorbent system.

10. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claims 1, wherein said sanitary napkin includes a fastener for retaining said main body to an undergarment.

11. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 10, wherein said fastener includes a flap.

12-22 (Canceled)